



CONCLUDING PRAYER:

**God, our Father,
grant us the clarity of
mind and the courage
of conviction to see
fear, jealousy, and
greed for what they
are, and not to use
them as motivations
to attack others.**

Amen.

The Vineyard of the Lord



Matt 21:33–43



Reader:

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.
(*pause*)

“There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.

“When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another,

‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.’ They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

“What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?” They answered him, “He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times.”

Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes’? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.”

RESPONSE: Psalm 80

Leader: O Lord of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted, the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

All: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Leader: Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name. O Lord, God of hosts, restore us; if you face shine upon us, then we shall be saved.

All: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.